



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to 34 Years for Violent Sexual Assault on Capitol Hill

Washington, D.C. - Acting United States Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today that James Blackmon, age 47, formerly of the 400 block of 11th Street, N.E., was sentenced on June 11, 2009, by the Honorable Geoffrey Alprin to 34 years incarceration, for multiple counts of First Degree Sexual Abuse, as well as First Degree Burglary and Kidnapping. Blackmon was convicted after trial on March 20, 2009.

According to government evidence presented at trial, Blackmon, a registered sex offender, gained access to the victim's apartment building by feigning interest in renting an apartment in the building. After the victim allowed him to enter the building, he trapped her in her apartment, and then beat her in the head and face and repeatedly raped her. Afterwards, Blackmon demanded money from the victim and ordered her to shower. Shortly thereafter, he left.

The victim suffered serious injuries from the assault and was taken to Howard University Hospital where she was treated, and where a nurse completed a sexual assault exam. The evidence collected from this exam was sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for DNA testing. The FBI placed the male DNA profile found in the evidence in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), a web of state and national databases containing DNA from convicted offenders and crime scenes that

is used as an investigative tool. Through CODIS, defendant Blackmon was identified as a suspect. The FBI then did further DNA testing, which confirmed that Blackmon was the man who raped the victim.

In announcing the sentence, Acting United States Attorney Phillips praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Karen Zibrat and Derek Bolding, Officer Brian Holland, and Mobile Crime Lab Technicians Natasha Pettus and Dwayne Mitchell. He also commended the work of U.S. Attorney's Office paralegals Jason Manual and Eugena Johnson, legal assistant Tiffany Jones, and victim advocate Tracy Hawkins. Finally, he praised Assistant United States Attorney Andy Lopez, who investigated the case, and Sharon Donovan, who presented it in court.

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